

## CD NO.

25X1 COUNTRY

SUBJECT Political Groups in North Vietnam

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. The current dissension within the Dai Viet leadership may be attributed to the following three factors:
  - a. Criticism of Nguyen Huu Tri's resignation as Governor of North Vietnam by Dai Viet members who feel he could have retained the position had he exerted sufficient pressure. Tri's quick temper and pride, and his consequent refusal to conciliate with Tran Van Huu and the French, are blamed for the downfall of the party. Tri privately told a non-political Vietnamese friend that he feared the French were planning to assassinate him.
  - b. The feeling among several Dai Viet leaders that the funds accumulated by the party while in power have been misused and unfairly divided.
  - c. Division in the party ranks regarding Dai Viet policy toward the French. Several of the older Dai Viet leaders, particularly those in the South, disagree with the aggressive anti-French policy advocated by the younger, more dynamic leaders.
2. It will be some time before the Dai Viet is able to recover from its defeat in North Vietnam. Many Dai Viet leaders feel that the only opportunity to stage a political comeback will be found in the creation of a National Assembly. They are apprehensive, however, that the French will be able to control the elections so as to ensure the defeat of all anti-French candidates.
3. The National Popular Party, organized about one year ago as a vehicle for future Dai Viet operations, has suffered because of the attitude of its nominal head, Le Thang. While bitterly condemning the results of the Pau Conference, Thang stated that he will do nothing at present but wait for future developments. Dang Van Sung, who is supposed to be the Secretary of the National Popular Party, has taken no active part in party affairs.
4. Several formerly antagonistic nationalist parties are currently making an attempt to resolve their differences and arrive at a common policy. These include:
  - a. The Dai Viet, represented by Le Thang and Phan Huy Quat

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- b. The Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang, represented by Phan Tran
- c. The Catholics, represented by Tran Trung Dung<sup>1</sup> and Le Quang Luat, leader of the Catholic Socialist Party
- d. The Dan Chung, represented by its leader Hoang Co Binh, director of Giang Son. Although Binh is himself a Catholic, the Dan Chung is not a Catholic group.

5. The unification of the Dai Viet and the Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang has been proposed for some time by Tran Van Tuyen. The policy of the two parties differ most radically in their attitude toward Bao Dai. In opposition to the Dai Viet, which they accuse of dictatorial methods, the VNQDD has refused to support the Bao Dai Government. Tran Van Tuyen believes that party differences can best be reconciled through a National Assembly to include representatives of all parties.

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- 1. [ ] Comment. Dung's recent arrest by the Vietnamese Surete was reported in [ ]

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